

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for folding sheets, (2) comprising;
- conveying a sheet (2) in a feed direction (F) in a state in which the sheet lies horizontally in a feed plane (7)-
- feeding the sheet (2)-to at least two incipient-folding rollers (4, 4')-by a rectilinear knife (6, 6'), which can be moved perpendicularly to the feed plane (7),
- wherein the sheet is received between said incipient-folding rollers in order to form a fold (8),
- conveying the folded sheet further by said incipient-folding rollers
- perpendicularly to the feed plane, wherein the folded sheet is received between at least two removal rollers;
- conveying the folded sheet (2)-away in the direction of the fold by removal rollers without completely closing the sheet.
2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, as the sheet is conveyed away, the sheet (2) is positioned on a saddle (16) aligned in the direction of the fold.
3. (Canceled)
- 3/4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim 3~~, wherein claim 1,
- wherein the removal rollers (5, 5') receive the sheet (2) in the region of the fold (8) and convey the sheet away while the lateral borders (2c, 2d) of the sheet (2) are at least partially located between the feed plane (7) and the incipient-folding rollers (4, 4').

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incipient-folding rollers (4, 4') are pressed against one another as the sheet (2) moves through them and are spaced apart from one another as the sheet (2) is conveyed away.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim 3~~, wherein claim 1, wherein the removal rollers (5, 5') are pressed against one another as the sheet (2) is conveyed away and are spaced apart from one another as the sheet (2) is conveyed through the incipient-folding rollers (4, 4').

6. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the feed direction (F) and the direction of the fold correspond to one another.

7. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a feed arrangement (3, 3') for feeding the sheet (2), ~~and sheet, and~~ for conveying away the folded sheet in the feed direction (F).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for folding sheets (2) having a knife (6, 6') which has a rectilinear top edge (6a), ~~located edge, located~~ parallel to the feed plane (7), ~~and plane, and~~ can be moved perpendicularly to the feed plane (7), ~~having plane, having~~ at least two incipient-folding rollers (4, 4') which are arranged parallel to the feed plane (7) and of which the axes of rotation (9) run parallel to the edge (6a) in each case, and having at least two removal rollers (5, 5'), ~~of rollers, of~~ of which the axes of rotation (10) run perpendicularly to the feed plane (7) and which are arranged on a side of the incipient-folding rollers (4, 4').

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, which comprises a saddle which is intended for receiving folded sheets (2) and is arranged downstream of the knife (6, 6').

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the incipient-folding rollers (4, 4') can be moved in relation to one another so as to form between them a gap in which the sheet (2) can be displaced as it is conveyed away.

¹⁴
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ¹¹~~9~~, which comprises a feed arrangement (~~3, 3'~~) for feeding a horizontally lying ~~sheet (2), in sheet, in~~ a feed direction (F), into the region between the knife (~~6, 6'~~) and the incipient-folding rollers (~~4, 4'~~).

¹⁵
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ¹⁴~~12~~, wherein the top edge (~~6a~~) of the knife (~~6, 6'~~) is aligned in the feed direction (F).

¹⁶
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ¹⁴~~12~~, wherein the feed arrangement (~~3, 3'~~) comprises at least two transporting belts (~~3a, 3b, 3a', 3b'~~) which are arranged to the sides of the ~~knife (6), parallel knife, parallel~~ to the knife (~~6~~).

¹⁷
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ¹¹~~9~~, which comprises a stop for feed ~~sheets (2), said sheets, said~~ stop being arranged in the feed plane (~~7~~) downstream of the knife (~~6, 6'~~) and perpendicularly to the feed direction (F).

¹⁸
16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ¹¹~~9~~, wherein the distance of the removal rollers (~~5, 5'~~) from the feed plane (~~7~~) is less than half the sheet width.

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17. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the folded sheet is conveyed away while end portions of the sheet remain parallel to the feed plane.

¹⁹
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~9~~ wherein the removal rollers direct the sheet to the side of the incipient-folding rollers.

²⁰
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~9~~ wherein the removal rollers direct the sheet to the side of the incipient-folding rollers that is away from the feed plane.

⁹
20. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the sheet is folded with a grain direction transverse to the fold.

²¹
21. (Original) The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~9~~, wherein the sheet is folded with a grain direction transverse to the fold.

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22.

(New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incipient-folding rollers

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are rotated about an axis of rotation running parallel to a top edge of the knife and the

removal rollers are rotated about an axis of rotation running perpendicular to the feed plane.

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